Elaine: Thank you!
HJalmer

FLAGS OVER SONOMA

by

Elaine Swain

A Two-part Musical Pageant for the 1963
Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival,
Sonoma, California

Part One

Presentation of the Flags, moving backward in time from 1963 to 1542. Seven scenes in music and dance.

Part Two

The Raising of the Flags: Mexican Republic, July, 1823; Bear Flag, June, 1846; the Stars and Stripes, July, 1846; Scenes in music, dance and dialogue.

Music and Lyrics

By Earle Wright

SETTING

The back of Mission San Francisco de Solano is used for the staging area. The stage consists of a triangle platform set against the mission walls, these forming the back wall of the stage. Its greatest depth to the corner is 24 feet, the width at front is 32 feet. There are steps up both right and left sides and center stage. In addition to this, there is approximately 30 feet of playing area in front of the platform. From the platform running right about 20 feet is the set representing posts and roof of mission portico; down from this is a large door, leading into the mission, which is used as a stage entrance. Further down right is a street entrance. Down left is another door into the mission. This will be used as entrance to Vallejo's home. Further down left is opening to the street, another entrance to staging area.

All performances will be at night. Spots will be used for small areas; and lighting arranged to highlight platform area, foreground area, or entire staging area.

FLAGS OVER SONOMA

Part One

Scene One:

FANFARE BUGLES

Announcer Ladies and gentlemen, the 1963 Vintage Festival Pageant . . . . . Flags Over Sonoma!

FANFARE BUGLES

(Spot to top of flag pole; first the 50 star U. S. Flag, Bear Flag and Flag of Mexican Republic, all on same pulley and in this order are raised during second fanfare).

Narrator 1823 saw three flags raised in Sonoma - the Flag of the Mexican Republic, the Bear Flag, and the Stars and Stripes. But the story of Sonoma's flags goes back as far as 1542 ... back to the conquistadors of Spain, English pirates, emissaries of the Russian Czar and citizens of a new world seeking sovereignty of California. In all, seven flags flew over Sonoma County and many were the people who contributed to her history... some named, but many unnamed. Our pageant presents the drama of those recorded in history and suggests the parts played by those unrecorded. We re-create the raising of the three flags and record the claims of the seven flags ... And so we move backward in time departing from now, Vintage Festival Time, 1963.

Scene two (Spot picks up flag curtain foreground, down right; this is a 50-star American Flag; it and all subsequent flag curtains are painted on 9 x 12 board with poles at each end. Flag-bearers are in costumes of the period. Before the curtain are three couples in modern evening dress, wine glasses in hand ... in this are Rosa Merras and Paul Smith, later to appear as other characters ... chorus is singing: "Vintage

Time in Sonoma" Spot is on through

"It's Vintage Time in Sonoma ....")

. . . . . .

(Modern group moves left and spot moves right, picking up three women and a man dressed in costumes of the flapper twenties; they move center pantomiming the lyrics through-

"The fiesta goes on till the first rays of dawn .....

.....

In Sonoma at Vintage time.")

(The 1920 group moves left, spot right to couple dressed in gay '90's; they move down and sing duet:)

The harvests are in and the leaves turn to brown,
The farm hands are through in the fields
Autumn's bright colors are seen all around
And winter's cold hand is revealed.
But happy and gay are the people today
The square is in festive decor
The flags and the bunting in dazzling display
It's fiesta time once again.

(Flag curtain is carried off right revealing foot wine press, three young women costumed one as Californian, two as American, 1846, are stamping grapes; 5 Indian boys carry in baskets of grapes, the modern, twenties, and ninety group move in and participate in the scene all singing the chorus of "Vintage Time in Sonoma."

(Spot fades)

Narrator

Before Commodore Sloat claimed California for the United States in Monterey, July 7, 1846, and later ordered the American Flag to be raised over Sonoma

County, six other flags had proclaimed sovereignty over its fertile domains.

SCENE THREE

(Spot down center foreground on Bear Flag)

Narrator Shortest lived was the Bear Flag of the Republic of California, the hope of a group of American revolutionaries; it flew over Sonoma for 26 days from June 14, 1846 until July 9, 1846 .....

(Fiddle music for a Virginia Reel. Four couples in from around flag right, four from around flag left; men are dressed in buckskin shirts, fringed and leggins; women are dressed in calico of the pioneer woman, 1840-'50 period, long full skirt, bodice snugly fitted, fastened up from waist to throat with buttons or hooks, round high neck finished with a narrow round collar, long sleeves ... some tight at wrists, some bell-shaped, sunbonnet. No two of the women's dresses are from the same bolt. Some are plain, some figured, as are the bonnets. As dance is almost complete, music fades under and spot fades out.)

Narrator Before the month of the Bear Flag, Sonoma grew and prospered, first as a mission, then as a pueblo under the flag of the Republic of Mexico. Raised in 1823, it followed that of Iturbide's ill-fated, one-year Mexican Empire.

SCENE FOUR

(Spot up-stage center platform are a Mexican Flag and a Mexican Empire Flag.. Curtains. Music "Song of the Frolicking Friars" in under. Light expands to include complete platform area. Down right arranging the climbing vines of the mission portico are 1st and 2nd friars.... up left pruning a tree are 3rd and 4th friars; three Indians boys, one of whom is Paul Smith, carrying baskets of grapes, enter single file from right, ground level, as they approach center, 1st and 2nd friar see them

1st Friar:Ah, wonderful grapes!

2nd Friar:Beautiful grapes! (They move quickly center motioning Indians toward them;

3rd and 4th Friar have turned; they move down center).

3rd Friar Luscious grapes!

4th Friar Gorgeous fruit of the vine! (Indians kneel in semi-circle facing friars and holding up grape baskets; the friars pickout several bunches of grapes, pantomiming their pleasure, they sing:

The grapes, the grapes, the wonderful grapes,
Plucked from the sun kissed vines,
They make, they make, they make, they make,
Delicious Sonoma wines!
The Zinfindel and the Vin Rosé
The sparkling Burgundy
The clear Sauterne and the sweet Tokay,
Aged in the winery!
Oh ... the grapes, the grapes, the wonderful grapes,
Are tonic for you and me ... Oh,
Are tonic for you and me!

(There is the sound of the mission bell call to vespers. Padre enters left; he gestures to the friars pointing out their duty; the 4th friar continues to hold a large bunch of grapes and he sings to padre .....)

The grapes, the grapes, the wonderful grapes,
Are tonic for you and me ..... Oh,
Are tonic for you and me!

(As padre again gestures toward the mission, 4th friar reluctantly replaces grapes, Indian boys rise and exit left and friars turn and shuffle dance right; padre follows them. They move along mission portico and exit door down right; the Music of the"Happy Friars" is held under and follow spot is used; as the last of the four friars exits, the padre takes up the dance-type step; then recovering himself and resuming a dignified walk, he follows them through the mission door.)

SCENE FIVE

(Russian Music in and held under)

Narrator In 1811, emissaries of the Imperial Russian Czar discovered Sonoma County's coast lands and raised the Czarist flag of Russia. (Spot on Russian flag up center of platform) which flew over the county's ocean shore at Fort Ross until 1842.

(Russian music up and Russians in fast and cheering. The older men, women and girls stand in the background before the flag and join in clapping to the bootslapping and cheer the prysidakas and leaps into the air as the young Russian men dance the "Timonia." Rosa presenta a flower to dancer, then at the end of the dance, the spot blacks out.)

SCENE SIX (Spot down left to English flag)

Narrator It was without regard for the claims of England that the Russian flag was raised, for Sir Francis Drake had hoisted the flag of Queen Bess in 1579. And in that year, English sailors camped on Sonoma County beaches, explored her coast line, and perhaps their sea chanteys rang from the Sonoma shore. (During last sentence a quartet of English sailors, costumed 1579, march before the flag from down left and sing vigorously with pantomime "Haul the Bowline" ... then "The Golden Vanity.")

Spot fades out

SCENE SEVEN (Music "Festival Time in Sonoma" fades in, and spot fades in center platform on chorus costumed mid-16th century Spanish, singing

Vinicola en Sonoma
Uvas de muchas parras
En el viento hay un aroma
Y cancion de guitarras
La fiesta esta en la plaza (On this line dancers Rosa and Paul move out and dance through)

Bailadores bailan el tango (On the next line, chorus move in closer together)

La gente de el pueblo

Paran a la campana

En silencio

A el vespertino

En Sonoma Venicola

En Sonoma Venicola!

(As song ends, Spanish flag is carried from left in front of chorus. Music is held under .....)

Narrator — And so we journey back to the first of the flags, the banner of Aragon and Castile, raised by Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo in 1542 proclaiming the region a Spanish domain.

(Light fades to blackout)

Part II

Narrator — Yes, seven flags have claimed the valley of the seven moons, and three have been raised with ceremony, here, in the Pueblo of Sonoma. The story of the raising of these flags begins with the establishment of the Mission San Francisco de Solano.

(Mission bell tolls six)

(Spot down right picks up Padre Altimira, Deputy Francisco Castro, and Second Lieutenant Don Jose Sanchez)

Narrator — The story begins July 4, 1823 .....

Castro — Padre Altimira, you have, indeed, chosen well .... six-hundred and seven springs we have counted in this area.

Altimira — (Speaks with enthusiasm throughout scene) Bubbling up, crystal clear, Don Castro.

Sanches — And stone enough to build a city, limestone!

Altimira Yes, Don Sanchez, and it is warmer than Mission San Rafael. The plants and trees bear witness to a mild climate. There is ample grass for grazing, and clear flats for corn, mellons, squash, beans, grapes, grain.. Plenty of timber for building not more than two leagues away, firewood close at hand, and good anchorage within 500 yards! It is a wonderous place this Sonoma, Valley of the seven moons!

Castro Padre, your dream is coming true. Here will be the beginning of a chain of missions far to the north.

Altimira (goes on as if not hearing him) Here to this salubrious climate we will transfer Missions Dolores and San Rafael. Our neophytes will regain their health; and we will bring the word of God to the many gentiles in this valley. (Lights up slowly to reveal complete foreground area. Two Mexican soldiers are at the flag pole preparing to raise the Mexican flag. Another stands nearby with a bugle. Down left three Mexican soldiers and two Indian neophytes are preparing to raise a rough redwood cross. Historically this was 19 feet high with an arm-spread of eight feet. Up and center from the group at the cross an acolyte prepares a vessel of holy water at a field altar.)

Castro And here we will establish another outpost of the Republic of Mexico. Don Sanchez, are your men ready?

Sanchez (turns and walks toward flag pole) Soldiers of Mexico, (all stand to attention, the two at flag pole step back) We have been commissioned to raise the flag of our beloved country, Mexico ... May it soon fly over all of Alta California!

(As Sanchez raises the flag, the bugle sounds; when it reaches the top, soldiers shout ...)

Soldiers Viva La Mexico! .... Viva La Mexico!

Soldiers (all gaze at the flag a moment, then)

Soldier 1 (from cross group) Padre, the cross is ready.

(Altimira moves to the cross, the soldiers all face it, the alcolyte brings the earthen jar covered with a white cloth containing holy water, the neophytes raise the cross. It stands supported by the rock of the field altar. As the cross comes up, all kneel. Altimira takes the cloth from the jar and sprinkles the cross with holy water.)

Altimira In the Name of the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and in the special honor of the glorious Saint Francis, I raise and dedicate this cross. (He genuflects and crosses himself. Indians kneel. Altimira rises, acolyte follows him with holy water which he sprinkles on the ground as he walks up-stage, crosses right, comes down, and returns to altar through kneeling soldiers)

Altimira To the greater Honor and Glory of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, on this day, July 4th, in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and twenty-three, I do solemnly dedicate this site for the spiritual uplift and welfare of our Indian brethern and those still in darkness. May it be the means of spreading further light and an inspiration for generations to come. In the name of the Father, and/of the Son, and/of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

(As Altimira returns to the cross he and the alcolyte kneel and give the sign of the cross ... there is a moment of silence, all heads bowed, then Altimira rises and turns to those kneeling)

Altimira (Hands out as in blessing) I pray for the salvation of your souls, I pray for all the Missions and the State of Mexico, and I fervently hope and pray that the work and the divine mantle of Serra may rest upon my shoulders ..... Pax Vobiscum.

All Sing "Te Deum Lamdamus" (All remain kneeling except Altimira. The lights fade and the song is finished in darkness.)

Narrative background music in

(Wide spot far right to mission portico; padre walks up and down with prayer book during the following narration.)

Narrator Padre Altimira undertook the building of the new mission with great enthusiasm, and as the year 1824 came to a close, it looked as though San Francisco de Solano would become one of the richest missions in California. A building thirty by one hundred and twenty feet had been built. Flocks and herds had been established. A loom had been set up for weaving cloth; three hundred fruit trees had been planted and one thousand grape vines started.

Although the Indians swooped down on the settlement in 1826 and put everything to ruin, Padre Buenaventura Fortuni successfully restored it; and in 1832, it reached the peak of its productivity.

But San Francisco de Solano was destined to be the last of the missions. In August, 1833, the Mexican government passed the Secularization law.

(Light begins to dim on mission and padre)

In 1835 General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, who had distinguished himself on the battlefield and at the council table, was appointed by Governor Figueroa to establish a pueblo at the Mission San Francisco de Solano, and carry out secularization, as well as to form a buffer against the Russian establishment at Fort Ross.

(Light completely out on mission portico and lights up spot up way down right on Don Mariano Vallejo.)

Narrator Don Mariano laid out streets for the new pueblo ... Calle Principal which led to the embarcadero four miles away, and a plaza near the mission buildings. (Vallejo walks left, mid-center). Here he brought his

Narrator beautiful wife Francesca Benicia and established his home. In the general's own words .....

Vallejo I proceeded energetically to my task, and in a short time had established a settlement near the mission ... I had been awestruck by the glories of the nights in the new settlement. One evening while sitting with my darling spouse ... I became bewildered by the beauty, largeness and silvery color of the moon ... I have it, my darling Francesca, what could be more appropriate? I shall name the lovely vision before our eyes, Sonoma, Valley of the Moon ..... (Spot fades on Vallejo)

Narrator And so it became Sonoma, a name applied by the Chocuyene Indians, and meaning Valley of the Moon. (Lights up slowly on full stage area. Groups are talking and walking about as if in the plaza. There are 3 Mexican soldiers, 2 Spanish-Indian girls, 4 Indian workers with wives and children, 2 American settlers and their wives; one has a child.)

Narrator contd. Settlers who crossed the plains from the United States, colonists sent from Mexico to California under Hijas and Padres, some few neophytes who had not elected to return to their tribal ways --- in the early 1840's, these were the inhabitants of Sonoma, and history records that Don Mariano Vallejo dealt with the diverse problems of his command in a humane and generous way.

Although affairs of state often called the commandante to Monterey or San Francisco, a Sunday in 1846 might have seen him leaving mass from the chapel of the mission. With him would be Francisca, and daughters Epifai, Adela and Natalia. (Vallejo family leave door down right and proceed across staging area down; when they reach left corner, they turn and promenade up stage, part of the plaza group is walking in the opposite direction, so this gives opportunity for stops and greetings.)

Perhaps his good friend Chief Solano, Christianized leader of the Suisuns,

Narrator would join them. (Solano, who has been standing up right against the last post of the mission portico, crosses to the Vallejo group.)

Narrator Also attending services might have been Don and Donna Salvador Vallejo, Don Timoteo Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Leese, Jose Berryessa and Jose Antonio Carillo, Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Fitch, and Victor Prudon. (As these names are narrated, the persons exit from the chapel door, and proceed across staging area and up right for promenade. Mrs. Leese is dressed in high fashion, a mantilla over her head. Mrs. Fitch in American fashion, the Vallejo women and girls wear rebozo's and are dressed in typical Sunday costume of the Californian 1840's. Men in the military are in uniforms, others in costumes of the Spanish Dons, except for Murphy, Leese and Fitch who are dressed in Yankee high style.)

Narrator Across the square might ride Juan Padillo, or the feared bandid Benard Garcia (horse and rider gallop through from street entrance down left to right) better known as four-fingered Jack.

Others walking the plaza might be the blacksmith, John Sears, and Mrs. Sears, "Dirty" Matthews, the stagecoach driver and his Indian wife, Victor Prudon, Mark West, Rosa, the printer, Edward McIntosh.

These were the people of the pueblo ... but there were many others, names not mentioned in the histories, names of which we find no trace. In letters they are referred to as the settlers, or the Indians, the servants, or the workers of the rancheros ... (lights begin to dim on scene) ... but these too played their parts in the changing times and changing flags of Sonoma.

(Lights out on main scene, spot down right foreground)

Narrator Such a one would be Rosa Merras, of Spanish and neophyte Indian descent, whose father works on the rancheros or at the embarcadero - Rosa, age fifteen, native daughter of Sonoma. (Spot full on Rosa who is dressed as Spanish girl of the period ready for social event ... however, her head is bare and her black hair is in braids. At last of narration, music blends from theme background to

"Seven Moons has my Valley" ... and Rosa sings the chorus. As she finishes the song and stands looking pensively at the sky, Paul Smith, a young American settler, dressed in typical costume of the pioneer ... a pistol at his waist, enters on horseback from down right street entrance. Rosa turns toward him. He dismounts and steps to her, holding the reins in his right hand.)

Rosa — Paul, I have been waiting for you.

Paul — I have not come to go strolling, Rosa. Only to warn you, and to tell you that I must stay at my uncle's farm ... to protect it, or perhaps go to join Fremont.

Rosa — There is war?

Paul — Who can tell what there is from one day to the next? The hundred and seventy horses General Vallejo released to Lt. Arce and Alviso, you remember, they were taken last week ... Well, the word going around is that they are to be used by Castro to drive us from the country. Drive out the Americans.

Rosa — I do not believe it. General Vallejo would not do it.

Paul — Perhaps not Vallejo, but Castro has sworn to. I must go now. My uncle wants me to see Yount and Bales and find out if they know what is going on.

Rosa — But when will you be back? When will I see you?

Paul — I don't know. Perhaps our people will be fighting, your father ....

Rosa — My father is more Indian than Spanish and he has no love for the Mexicans. He has worked for Americans, and he says one day California will belong to the United States.

Paul — That's my hope ... that's the hope of many of us ... and if it should happen then, Rosa ... but I must go. It's a long ride to Napa Valley. (He puts his left arm around her and kisses her quickly). Goodby Rosa ... (Quickly he mounts his horse and turns and exits street entrance down right.)

Rosa — (Raising her hand, calls after him.) Adios, Paul.

(Spot fades)

Narrator This was Saturday night, July 13, 1846, and perhaps at some forerunner of the Blue Wing Cafe, rumor has it that Cooper and Spriggs ran a small saloon in Sonoma prior to building the Blue Wing ... Well, perhaps on that historic night one might have seen ...

(Lights and music cut in on narration. Lights are on the platform area. It is a cafe scene ... down stage left is a round table with wine bottle, three glasses ... sitting at this table left is a pretty senorita, dressed in typical Spanish party costume of the day. Center is a yankee trader; chair right is empty. A square table up left has Indians seated two on each side, backs left and right, they only interrupt their game, churchurki, to watch the singing and dancing. The game is played with two small sticks, one black, one white ... these are concealed in the hands of one of the players, and those on the other side guess which hand contains the white one ... the guessers never speak but give a hard slap to the palm of the left hand with the right, point the finger to the side they guess to contain the white peon. When the guessers are correct, they gain the peon as well as the coppers bet ... reed counters ten inches long are also passed back and forth, keeping track of the number of games. Upstage right of center is a round table with wine, glasses, and two chairs occupied by Don Salvador Vallejo and Jacob Leese. Downstage right there is another round table. Seated are three American settlers. Williams, center, sports a butterfly waistcoat, some what delapidated, and railroad trousers. The other two, Jones left and Davis right, are dressed in buckskin shirts, fringed and leggins. The three glasses on their table and the bottle are empty.

When the lights flash on, Maria is dancing. Chiquita, a Spanish-Indian girl, who serves the customers, is standing behind the Yankee trader. She has a bottle of red wine in her hand. As Maria finishes her dance, there is applause, cheers of bravo from the settlers and yankee trader. Maria sits left of trader. The Indians begin to play game. One rapping on the table loudly.)

Trader (To Chiquita) What's that they're doing?

Chiquita It is churchurki, senor, a game they adapted from the Los Angeles. (Trader pours wine for the Spanish girls, waiter crosses to settlers' table, Don Salvador and Jacob Leese are in deep conversation.)

Jones What do you hear of those hundred-seventy horses Alvisio rounded up here, Chiquita?

Chiquita The usual, senor, (she pours from the new bottle) Everything is meant for Don Castro.

Williams He is going to drive the Americans out of California.

Chiquita No one sees him doing it, Senor.

Williams Yeah, the Mexicans talk every spring and fall of driving the foreigners out of the country.

Jones But last fall when Castro held hearings here, we were permitted to remain in the department.

Davis Yes, by giving bonds, and promising to leave within three months if we didn't apply for a license to settle.

Yankee (Who is feeling gay) More wine, Chiquita.

Chiquita (who now has the empty settlers bottle in hand, crosses left) red or white, senor?

Yankee Neither one. It's Saturday night. Bring on champagne!

Williams (hitting table with his fist) Damn it, I don't want to become a naturalized Mexican. I'm an American.

Davis But Castro's proclamation states that the purchase or acquisition of land by foreigners, not naturalized, will be null and void, and they will find themselves expelled from the country any timethe country finds it convenient.

Williams That means when they think they have the power, and it also means that Castro can take back a lot of land.

Davis — Everyone's saying Castro is getting ready to enforce the ruling, now, that he's encouraging Indians to burn the crops of Americans.

Jones — Captain Fremont will have something to say about that.

(Chiquita has returned with champagne and is pouring it at the Yankee's table. The Spanish senoritas here get out long thin cigarettes which they put in holders and smoke.)

Williams — If the Mexicans don't run out this year, they will never do it. More Americans are crossing the plains every month. There will be a revolution before long.

Jones — Those hundred-seventy horses the General delivered to Castro, they'll probably be riding down on us soon, and I'll wager the General is in on the plot.

Salvador — (Who with Leese has been listening to the last few speeches, rises). Gentlemen, we could not but help to overhear your remarks. I am Salvador Vallejo, brother of Mariano, and this is my brother-in-law, Jacob Leese.

You do not know the General, he has nothing but the highest regard for Americans and for the United States. In Monterey in reply to Castro and Pico's advocacy that California seek cession to France or England, the General proposed annexation to the United States.

He pleaded with the junta ... He said "disregard old prejudices, disregard old customs, and prepare for the glorious change which awaits our country. Why should we shrink from incorporating ourselves with the happiest and freest nation in the world, destined soon to be the most wealthy and powerful! ... When we join our fortunes to hers, we shall not become subjects, but fellow-citizens, possessing all the rights of the people of the United States, and choosing our own federal and local rulers. We shall have a stable government and just laws ... Look not, therefore, with jealousy upon the hardy pioneers who scale our mountains and cultivate our unoccupied plains; but rather welcome them as brothers, who come to share with us a common destiny."

Salvador contd. Gentlemen, you do not know General Mariano Vallejo; he is interested only in the best future for California; he will not oppose you. (turning to Leese) Shall we go, Jacob? (Leese rises) Good evening, gentlemen. (All nod and Leese and Salvador exit right, as they exit, Rosa enters right).

Williams Well ..... I didn't know the good Don Salvador was paying any attention to us.

Davis Quite a speech. More wine, Chiquita. (She exits left)

Jones (notices Rosa) Rosa! ... Rosa Merras, you have come to give us a song.

Rosa No, I have come looking for my father.

Jones He hasn't been here all evening.

Williams But let's have a song, Rosa.

Trader (Standing up and applauding, and by this time he is wobbly). Yes, a song, a song. It's Saturday night! We need a song!

Davis Come on, Rosa.

Rosa What song do you want?

Davis Anything.

Rosa (Shrugs, moves down center and sings --- (song is still being worked on by Wright) Indians listened when Don Salvador spoke, since they have returned to their game, now, they look up briefly. When Rosa concludes the song, all but Indians applaud. Chiquita enters with wine ...)

Yankee (stands and yells) More! More!

Rosa (Smiling and backing out) No, no, I must find my father. Thank you. (She exits right quickly; Chiquita crosses to settlers table with wine)

Yankee (still standing) Well ... Well, then Maria, let's have a dance! What the hell, it's Saturday night! (Maria smiles, nods yes to him, rises, clicks the castanets ... The music begins, and she dances. Chiquita remains standing in front of the empty table, empty bottle in hand. As the dance is concluding, lights and music fade out.)

(There is a three count blackout,then spot down right reveals Ezekiel "Stuttering Merritt" with gun in back of Paul Smith. Merritt is a tall, spare rawboned rugged man. He is dressed in greasy looking buckskins; he is wearing a coon skin cap and carrying a shotgun. He takes Paul's gun; Paul whirls around).

Merritt — Just ttttake it easy sonny, an y' ain't goin' ti get hurt none. Now, I know y' say y' know Yount .. ifen y' ddddo or ddddon't ain't nnnnothin' t' me. Long as y' cause no ttttrouble y' kin go. We jus ain't ttttakin' no chances havin this here town roused up for we git it surrounded. Soons they git the horses ssttaked out we'll see 'bout you.

Paul — What's going to be done? I just might want to be in on it.

Merritt — Plans all been made, boy ... made up at Fremont's camp ... Ain't no one runnin' us out o' Californi ....

Paul — You mean the United States has declared war on Mexico?

Merritt — Not that I kkkknow of, but you jus' keep shut an' you're goin' t' see some action here in Sonommy.

Paul — I'd like to get into .....

Merritt — Shhhhh someone's a' comin'

(Robert Semple and William Levi Todd move into the spot from right. Todd precedes Semple. Semple is very tall, actually six foot eight'. He is attractive, imposing, a man of some education, and he speaks well. He is dressed in buckskins, but neat and clean. He wears a brace of pepper box pistols; Todd is a younger man in late twenties; he wears the typical frontierman's dress, which gives evidence of much wear and little wash. He has a bowie knife strapped to his waist and carries a long rifle).

Merritt — Oh, it's Todd and Semple. We all set boys?

Semple — What have you here,Merritt?

Todd — Our first prisoner?

Merritt — Ffffella claims he was riddin' out t' Napa Valley t' see Yount; I run into 'im when I was riddin' ahead as scout.

Paul — I'm an American, I've been trying to tell him my uncle ...

Semple — Sorry, son, we don't have time to inquire into your antecedents. We have work to do. Properly handled, this affair will not result in bloodshed.

Merritt — Grigsby and Swift?

Todd — They're comin' up the other side of the square. We got the whole town covered.

(Spot dims out, lights up slowly on entire set, as lights come up , Bear Flaggers seem to appear from everywhere. They are for the most part long-haired, wild-eyed men in soiled leather clothing wearing coonskin caps, some in boots, some in Indian moccasins, armed with long rifles, shotguns, bowie knives, or pepper box pistols, some with several of these. Merritt, Todd and Semple leave Paul and cross to door down left. Around the corner left, come Henry L. Ford, a retiring modest young man of twenty-four, and Granville P. Swift, fair, erect, well-formed, six foot one. They are armed with long rifles ... Swift knocks the butt of his rifle on the door. Knight and older man, Kelsey and Fallon move toward the door from up stage. Ide stands center-stage. Around the corner, left comes John Grigsby, a muscular young man of thirty. Behind them another armed Bear Flagger.

Grigsby — We found these men at the barracks, Capt. Merritt ... What do you want done with them?

Merritt — Ttttttake 'em back to the barracks and post a guard. Jus' don't want this town disturbed fur awhile. (Grigsby and party turn and exit left as Merritt hangs his rifle against the door, it is opened and Indian servant girl looks out)

Girl — Yes ... (Then somewhat frightened by the look of the mob)

Girl — Yes, Senors?

Semple — We are here to see the general.

Girl — The General is dressing, he begs that your leaders enter, senors. (Semple, Merritt, Kelsey, Fallon and Knight enter; Ford and Swift stand guard at the door, Todd moves center.)

Todd — Well, boys, looks like a wait while we see what the yak, yak is about .....

Bear Flagger One — (Up-stage,left) Let's sack the house ... lots a valuables ... and I hear the General keeps his gold there!

Swift — (raising his rifle) You repeat that suggestion and you'll be hung as high as Haman.

(Enter Grigsby left carrying a gallon of brandy)

Grigsby — Look what we found in the storehouse at the barracks ... (All but Ide and Swift move center amid cheers ... Paul exits right. As the bottle is passed around, some sit on ground, some kneel. There are ad libs "It was a hard ride . Am I thirsty! Pass the bottle on ... etc." During this action, Salvador Vallejo and Victor Prudon enter down right and pass behind the drinkers. They are escorted by two armed Bear Flaggers.)

Swift — What have we here?

Salvador — I am Capt.Salvador Vallejo, and this is Don Victor Prudon. We were ... asked ... by these members of your party to meet here.

Swift — By all means, enter, senors. (Swift opens the door and Salvador and Prudon exit. Jacob Leese enters left, center there is still the drinking and the passing of the jug)

Leese — (to Swift) I have been called upon to come as an interpreter.

Swift — Who called you, and who are you?

Leese — I am Jacob Leese, American, and brother-in-law of the General. Members of your party have directed me to come here and act as interpreter.

Swift — Then enter, sir. We are not here to obstruct justice, but in its cause. (Opens the door for Leese who exits)

2nd Flagger — What the hell they doin' - seems t' me like it takes a long time. We got the town surrounded. There just ain't no opposition. Seems like we could come t' terms pretty damn quick!

3rd Flagger — Aw set down an' rest yourself and pass the jug around. (Swift moves center from the door)

1st Flagger — We got t' have a representative iinside; seems t' me we oughta' send someone in. It's been too long for talkin'

Group — Yeah! Yeah!

We're with y'

I'm for y'

Who's goin' in (these are said together)

4th Flagger — Ide, what the hell d' y' think is going on?

Ide — Some kind of negotiations.

4th Flagger — We gottahave a representative!

1st Flagger — I nominate John Grigsby captain and suggest we send him in t' find out what's goin' on. All in favor say Aye. (From all over there is a chorus of Ayes)

2nd Flagger — O.K. Grigsby, you're it. Go in an' bring us a report.

Grigsby — I'll see what I can do.

Ad libs — Pass the jug

Grigsby will soon let us know what's doin'

Yeah!

Give me another swig (Merritt and Semple appear at left doorway)

2nd Flagger — Now we're gettin' some action!

Merritt — (down right of Semple) We have exchanged ggguarantees.

Semple — (Moving center) Signed by M. G. Vallejo, Victor Prudon and Salvador Vallejo; (reads from paper) Be it known by these present, that, having been surprised by a numerous armed force which took me prisoner, with the chief and officers belonging to this place, that said force took possession of, having found it absolutely defenceless, myself as well as the undersigned prisoners of war, we will not take up arms for or against said armed force, from which we have received the present intimation, and a signed writing which guarantees our

lives, families and property and those of all the residents of this jurisdiction, so long as we make no opposition.

(Cheers from Bear Flaggers)

Semple And now another document

Merritt (Merritt begins to read paper he has held in hand) We, the undersigned having resolved to establish a government of rep ppublican ppppp .... republican pppprince ... (hands the document to Semple who continues)

Semple a government of republican principles, in connection with others of our fellow citizens, and having taken up arms to support it, we have taken three Mexican officers as prisoners, Gen. M. G. Vallejo, Lieut-Col. Victor Prudon, and Capt. D. Salvador Vallejo, having formed and published to the world no regular plan of government, we feel it our duty to say that it is not our intention to injure any person who is not found in opposition to our cause, nor will we take or destroy the property of private individuals further than is necessary for our immediate support.

(After the reading of the proclamation, Semple exits door down left and Merritt moves down-stage center and sings ... to traditional folk tune:

"I'm gonna climb that mountain.
'I'm a mountain man from Tennessee,
These big flat lands they ain't for me
No matter where I roam!
Now I've found me a mountain peak,
Right close to old Sonom
No longer do I have to seek,
To find a place called home ... (He moves down center)

Chorus I'm gonna climb that mountain,

Way up in the clouds,

That old Sonoma Mountain,

Far from all them crowds,

W'ar the deer and the quail are neighbors,

And wild birds sing all day,

W'ar thar ain't no weary labors,

An I kin watch the chipmunks play.

I'm gonna climb that mountain,

Away from storm and strife, and

Drink from God's clear fountain,

And live the simple life!

Flaggers Yeah, pass the jug ...

1st And now what's happenin' inside?

Merritt Negotiations ... bbbut I'll go tttake 'em up again. (Exits door left.)

(Now the square is filling with people. They come from street entrance down right. Townspeople - mostly women, some children - Indian women. The people we have seen in the cafe scene. They move along the Mission portico and across the platform. Paul and Rosa stop before portico mid-right. Then Williams, Davis and Jones come center behind flaggers. Mr. and Mrs. Sears up right -- Mathews and wife up left. Indian workers around corner left and move up left. Bear flaggers continue to pass the jug.

Swift (Who has moved down right) We need somethin' t' take the place of that emblem. Can't have the Mexican flag flyin' over the Republic of California.

1st flagger That's right - gotta have us a flag.

2nd " I'll run it together if I kin find some material.

Mrs Sears (up right) I got material, son, a whole bolt of manta. How much do you need?

2nd flagger A couple o' yards should do.

Mrs. Sears Come along son. (They exit down right)

Ford What we goin' t' put on the flag?

4th flagger I'd say a star, Texas is doin' all right with a star!

Ford I'll find something for a star (walks portico right)

5th flagger Todd, you got the talent, you put a star on the flag

Dirty Mathews Gotta have some red, boys, and I know jus where to git it. (He and Mrs. Mathews are up left) Mrs. Mathews got somethin' red.

Mrs. Mathews Jus' wait till I unpin it. (She lifts her skirts and takes off a red petticoat which Mathews, amid cheers of the bear flaggers, takes to Todd. At this time 2nd flagger and Mrs. Sears return from right)

2nd flagger Well,we ready to go to work Todd?

Ford (coming from portico on platform right) I got paint boys, (Holding up rusty can and brush) Red paint,and I say we oughta paint a bear on our flag, Ain't nothin' tougher than a grizzly.

Todd Well, Ford, come along t' the barracks an' I'll paint her purty! (Todd, Ford, 2nd flagger with several children following them exit down left. Swift has come center for a few swigs of the bottle, but keeps guard at door.)

5th flagger That Grigsby ain't much of a captain: I think we're due for another report, an' I nominate William Ide, him bein' sober an' sane. (Ide has been standing upstage from the proceedings center right, keeping rifle in hand, guarding townspeople away from central group and door to Vallejo's house)

1st flagger All in favor say age ... (amid a chorus of ayes, Ide enters the house, then around left comes Kelsey, carrying 6 bottles, two in each hand, and one under each arm)

Kelsey Reinforcements boys, the General's sure got a good supply (Group at center ... hooray .... aye!)

Swift Leave one off here. (he takes bottle) (Kelsey goes center where the bottles are passed out, after three)

Mathews (Yells out from up left center) Seems t' me y' got plenty t' go around, after all I'm an American too.

4th flagger That's right, Kelsey, pass the bottles round. (Kelsey moves upstage with two bottles, Rosa and Paul have moved in right.)

3rd flagger An' while we're waitin', I'm goin' t' haul down this olo flag ... We gotta git ready fur the new Republic a Californi ....

(Cheers from the crowd)

Paul (stepping forward) Please sir, I'd like to help you; I'd like to have a hand in this.

(Cheers from the Bear Flaggers ....)

4th flagger Give the lad a drink! (one offers him a swig which he takes and he and 3rd Flagger proceed to haul down Mexican flag amid more cheers. Then Ide enters from door down left:)

Ide Your attention please --

After much discussion and the generous hospitality of our host, Semple, Grigsby and Merritt with six other of our party, have taken Gen. M. G. Vallejo to Sacramento for their own safety. We will remain here. The citizens of Sonoma are requested to remain at peace and to follow their rightful occupations without fear of molestation.

(At the conclusion of this speech, Ford, Todd, Bear Flagger 2 and the small boys who followed them return with the Bear Flag. Bear Flaggers who have been sitting, stand and cheer.)

1st flagger Hold it ups so we kin all hav' a look ...

4th flagger Ya call that a bear, Bill? It looks more like a hog. (laughter) Well, it's a better flag than came down, an' I'll defend it with my life.

Flaggers (Cheer and begin singing "Song of the Bear Flaggers." As song is concluded, from portico step two fiddlers striking up fast contra tune. Bear Flaggers move back. Rosa and Paul move center; three couples from left and right join them, after dance, all sing last of "Flaggers Song."

Chorus (shout) So!

"Lift high your glasses, and let us drink a toast .... etc ...

(As lights are out on stage, spot goes to top of flag pole and holds during following narration.)

Narrator For twenty-six days the Bear Flag flew over Sonoma. Was this insurrection a serious attempt to establish liberty and justice, the disorganized action

Narrator contd

of a few malcontents, or a comic opera adventure? Historians disagree, but from north of the bay, men flocked to support the standard of the bear, rallying to the cause of an independent republic, and one day the bear flag was to become the standard of the state of California. However, in that summer of 1846, it finally became known that the United States and Mexico were at war. (Sound of drum beats in distance) And on July 7, Commodore Sloat of the U. S. S. Savannah landed a force of American sailors at California's capital and raised the American Flag over Monterey's plaza; and on July 9, Lieutenant Joseph Warren Revere of the U. S. S. Portsmouth with a detail of sailors marched from the Embaraadero up Calle Principal to the plaza of Sonoma. (Drum beats louder, lights up on full staging area, the people from the last scene are grouped in foreground and background; all are looking off right. Senora Vallejo and Mrs. Leese, accompanied by the padre, enter from door down left; the crowd stoops back to make way for them, and they cross down to center near flag pole. Rosa, Paul and Ide are down center right. (Drum fades) Lieutenant Revere and six American sailors march in, double file, the first four have rifles, the next two

(Cheers from the crowd, Flaggers throw their hats in air)

carry the American flag. Lt. Revere marches his men to the flag pole, as they approach the pole.

Revere

Detail, Single file, March!

Detail, Halt!

Stand, At Ease!

Lower the flag!

(The two unarmed sailors go to flag pole. One stands holding the American flag, the other lowers the Bear Flag. As the Bear Flag comes down, Ide steps forward and takes it. He folds it.)

Revere — Detail, Attention! (Ide takes flag to Revere and gives a bow indicating acquiescence; then he steps back.)

Revere — This is worth saving ... (He drops his left hand, holding the flag). Hoist the Flag!

Present Arms! (As the Stars and Stripes go up, "America" is played. All on stage are silent; men have hats in hand. Lt. Revere is saluting. When the flag reaches the top, the flag bearers salute. Music blends to "America the Beautiful". From left and right come the flag curtains. First flag in from right is the American flag, from left the Bear Flag, 2nd from right the Mexican flag, 2nd from left the Russian flag. Last right the Spanish flag, last left the English flag. These are carried in horizontially to form a curtain.)

Narrator — ("America the Beautiful" continues as background)

The Stars and Stripes were raised in settlement after settlement, and by treaty, after the war with Mexico, California, in 1848, became a part of the United States. General Vallejo returned to his family and soon became a leader in forming the state of California ... and to Sonoma came Colonel Agoston Haraszthy to establish the area's wine industry and to open a new era of progress ... and the people of the pueblo settled down to till the orchards and the vineyards in the Valley of the Moon.

(Music ... "It's Vintage Time in Sonoma" Whole company on stage. The chorus is sung, and beginning with the lines ...

"It's fiesta time"in the plaza, , dancers of modern, '20's ... 90's .... and Bear Flag ... dance ... Rosa and Paul are in the foreground ... and pick up as duet .... "The people of the plaza ... pause when the mission bells chime ... and silently pray ... at the end of the day."

The Vallejo family is grouped at the door down left. Revere and sailors are up center ... Ide,Merritt and Semple down right ... padre is way down right ... At the end of the song ...)

Blackout

Narrator The Festival Association and Pageant participants thank you for your interest in our annual production and offer this toast, "Health, friends, the good life and contentment. Hasta La Vista! "

2021.3.42.(

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